Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

HAZARD ALERT IVE TOMORROW

On August 20, 2004, at approximately 2:41 a.m., a fatal accident occurred when material dislodged from a surface mine during mining activities, struck a residence, fatally injuring a three-year old male child. A large rock was dislodged from an active mine access road during road reconstruction work that was not authorized by the company's surface mine permit. The rock rolled approximately 649 feet down a steep, wooded slope and penetrated the rear exterior wall of the child's bedroom, striking the bed where the child was sleeping and causing fatal injuries. The rock passed through two interior walls and came to rest next to the bed of the child's eight year old brother.

SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

1. **Mining methods must ensure adequate slope stability and provide effective control for dislodged material that could impact public safety.**

2. **Surface foremen and equipment operators should identify on the mine map, the location of private dwellings, public and other roads used for vehicle travel, gas wells and transmission lines and any other locations where mining activity could impact public safety. When work is planned in these locations, the foreman shall provide clear instructions for work procedures and safety precautions and ensure that these procedures and practices are followed.**

3. **When work is planned on out slope areas, equipment that is best designed to perform the work and control accidental dislodging of materials should be used.**

4. **Work that requires hauling, pushing, dumping or moving material on the mine site when private dwellings are located down slope should be performed during daylight hours.**

5. **If work is required to be performed on the mine site when private dwellings are located down slope, monitoring by a "spotter" to control accidental dislodging and prevent accidental travel of material down slope, should be used, or notification and evacuation of effected residents should be practiced.**

Please Post "2004"

For additional information or assistance, contact the Division of Mines, Big Stone Gap (276) 523-8227 or Keen Mountain Office (276) 498-5433

ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM

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